

STATE RAILROAD CONTROL ESSENTIAL

Is Vital Factor in Preparedness, Says German Minister of Railroads.

By CARL W. ACKERMAN.

BERLIN, (via Amsterdam), Dec. 15.—Government ownership of railroads is a vital step in the military preparedness program of any nation, including the United States, Minister of Railroads von Breitenbach, who directs the largest part of Germany's gigantic network of railways, asserts.

"Without misjudging the efficiency of well administered privately-owned lines," said von Breitenbach, referring to railway organization in the United States, "the efficiency of government lines is greater."

New Lines Acquired.

"It is inconceivable that private owners should enlarge their stocks of locomotives and cars so as to be able to meet any requirements of congestion. State railways, on the other hand, try to prepare for such traffic. This makes their position strong and enables them to realize the demands both of war and peace traffic."

Von Breitenbach estimates that the new lines acquired and built in conquered territory now form at least 25 per cent of the whole German railway system. And it was his handling of this great iron web extending into Russia, France, and Belgium that led some critics to remark that "General Railroad" has won more battles and campaigns in this war than any other general.

"The fact that we have government ownership is due to Bismarck," said von Breitenbach. "He conceived that idea not as a preparation for war, but to promote our economic life, to bring our traffic policies in accord with our economic policies. Thirty-five years ago the idea met with great opposition. Today it has not an opponent in the reichstag."

Mileage Changes.

The mileage of Germany's railways change daily as new lines are built into conquered territory. That means new details to be looked after.

"During mobilization the whole peacetime tables are useless," he said. "The military time table is effective then; the traffic managers are intrusted various duties under my control."

"Quite naturally the difficulties of management are especially serious during the heavy spring and autumn traffic. Then, too, all these difficulties must be overcome with greater exactness in times of war than in times of peace, especially when military orders calling for the transportation of large bodies of troops are suddenly given out."

There has been no slackening in railway development because of the war, the minister said. Capital now invested in railroads now aggregates \$3,100,000,000. "Our freight traffic today is between 80 and 100 per cent of what it is in peace times," said von Breitenbach. "Last July for example, the freight receipts were greater than in the same month of the previous year."

MARKED INCREASE AT Y. M. C. A. GYMNASIUM

Report Shows Many More Men Are Taking Part in Athletic Games.

A report issued today by C. Edward Beckett, director of the department of physical work of the Washington Y. M. C. A. for the month of November of this year shows a marked increase of the men using the gymnasium and taking part in games, than in the same month of last year. The report is a complete study of the numbers taking part in all departments of physical work, ranging from basketball games, billiards, business men's class, and hygiene courses.

The total number of persons taking part in gymnasium work this year was 3,335 as compared with 3,135 in November of last year. In the "recreative" classes 1,633 men took part, and the number of men taking part in bowling was 2,469.

"During the month," the report states, "two leagues were organized, one in basketball and the other in volleyball. Bi-weekly athletic contests have been started with four teams of four men each. The aquatic contests have continued, and there have been numerous handball and basketball contests."

Commercial Congress Talks National Defense

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 15.—National defense had attention at the meeting of the Southern Commercial Congress here today.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels was to speak on "The Navy and National Defense," and Secretary of War Garrison on "The Army and National Defense." In the afternoon there was to be a military and naval parade.

Poindexter Pleads for Exemptions From Tolls

A bill to restore the tolls exemption of American ships in the Panama canal has been introduced by Senator Poindexter of Washington.

Senator Poindexter does not expect the bill to pass, but he believes the subject must not be forgotten. His bill would admit all American ships to free use of the canal, regardless of whether coastwise or in the ocean trade.

COMMENDS BRAVERY OF F-4 RESCUERS

Report of Navy Department Recommends Life Saving Medals for Three in Party.

How Chief Gunner's Mate Frank W. Culler, U. S. N., was knocked unconscious by a sinking cable while 30 feet under the surface in Honolulu Harbor, recovered and continued his work of rescuing a fellow-seaman salvaging the ill-fated submarine F-4, is told in a Navy Department report just received. The man rescued, Chief Gunner's Mate William F. Loughman, had become foul of cables from the salivage boat. Crilley, in spite of his own accident, brought Loughman to the surface. Passed Asst. Surg. Harry A. Garrison and George R. W. French entered the deep compressed tank with Loughman, despite great danger, to work on him.

The dispatches mention the world's record for deep diving established by Crilley, French, and Garrison. The department has recommended them for a life-saving medal. Other men commended for their "heroic work" are John C. George, Jr., Evans, William Loughman, Fridolin C. Nelson, Charles E. Reynolds, and Stephen J. Drellishank.

Civic Association Will Decide on Future Status

Whether the Washington Civic Association will continue as organized at present or return to its old policy of being strictly an East Washington organization, in line with the work done by other citizens' associations, probably will be decided at a meeting to be held in the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, Fourth and B streets southeast, at 8 o'clock this evening. The annual election of officers will also be held.

Delegates from the East Washington churches to the annual convention of the District Anti-Saloon League are expected to attend, and branches of the league will be organized in the Fifth and Ninth precincts. The meeting will be addressed by Attorney Shoemaker, representing the league.

Real Estate Brokers To Meet Monday Night

The Real Estate Brokers' Association will hold its December meeting Monday night in the red parlor of the Ebbitt House.

Charles J. Bell, president of the American Security and Trust Company, will speak on the attitude of trust companies toward the public buildings and Presidents of other trust companies are invited to be present.

The report will be presented of the committee on entertainment of the delegates attending the mid-winter meeting of the executive committee of the National Real Estate Association, which meets here January 27 and 28 at the Willard.

Banks Distributed to Aid Homeless French

Aid for homeless families in France was sought in All Souls' Church last night by the Twentieth Century Club and small tin banks, modeled after the temporary houses being erected at a cost of \$50 each were distributed.

Edward R. Clark, correspondent of the Chicago Evening Post, who lately returned from the French front, spoke on "The War-Torn Marne."

The Rev. Dr. Van Schaek, Jr., presided, and a musical program was given by Dr. and Mrs. W. F. O. Swann and Miss Mary Kelly. The French Ambassador and Mme. Jusseland were present.

Will of Mrs. E. M. Miller Is Filed For Probate

Alma K. Miller and Edith M. Miller are chief beneficiaries under the will of their mother, Elizabeth M. Miller, filed for probate by Attorney R. E. Downing in the office of the Register of Wills. The daughters are made joint tenants of the homestead at 333 Third street northwest and are given \$1500 each as well as the residue after the following gifts are made: Mary H. Dunnington, a daughter, \$1,000; Estelle Johnson, a daughter, \$500; Joseph F. Miller, a son, \$500, and to a grandson, William F. Winter, \$10.

Aid IS PROMISED IN PLAZA BOARD PROBE

Commission Will Facilitate Inquiry Concerning Its Work, Declares Member.

A member of the Plaza Commission said today the commission would facilitate an inquiry into its work. If the House decides to take favorable action on the Clark resolution for an investigation, and that it is readily ascertainable how much the commission has spent and how much it has saved in the plaza awards.

Congressman Frank Clark of Florida introduced in the House yesterday a resolution calling for a select committee of five members to probe "the acts of what is known as the plaza commission." Mr. Clark is chairman of the committee on public buildings and grounds, and says he wants to ascertain how much work the commission has done for the \$20 per diem paid its members.

One of the commissioners on hearing of the Clark resolution said an investigation would be welcome, and the books of the board of awards are open. The commission comprises W. W. Spaulding, chairman; Guy Mason and A. C. Wells. It has been engaged in the plaza award work about a year, having been named after Congressman Ben Johnson was instrumental in having the President set aside the original awards owing to the alleged excessive amounts allowed for the Baltimore and Ohio property.

THREE MIDSHIPMEN WILL BE DISMISSED

Persistent Violation of Rules of Naval Academy Bases of Decision.

Under orders of Secretary of the Navy Daniels, Superintendent Eberle today will dismiss from the Naval Academy three midshipmen because, of repeated violations of regulations.

Orders were sent to Annapolis by Secretary Daniels last night after President Wilson had given his approval. The names of the dismissed midshipmen are withheld.

Two of the midshipmen were among the fifty found guilty of minor offenses in connection with the "cribbing" scandal at the Academy last summer. They were then placed on one year's probation, and subsequently broke parole. The third was accused of persistently breaking Academy rules.

Service Will Portray The Infancy of Jesus

A joint service by the two Sunday Schools of the Church of the Epiphany portraying the infancy of Jesus will be held in the Church Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The program includes "The Annunciation," "The Nativity," "The Presentation," "The Epiphany," "The Flight Into Egypt," and the "Home at Nazareth."

Different groups of scholars will move in procession to the church, each preceded by an appropriate banner, and each will recite one of the catechisms on the program. The junior choir, Mrs. Griffith Johnson, organist, will lead in the singing of Christmas carols. The service has been prepared by the Rev. Percy Foster Hall, who will assist the Rev. Dr. Randolph H. McKim, rector.

CARRANZA CHARGED WITH BREAKING WORD

Mgr. Kelley and Rev. T. V. Shannon Accuse Him of Violating Religious Liberty Pledge.

Secretary of State Lansing has before him today documentary evidence submitted by Mgr. Francis C. Kelley and the Rev. Thomas V. Shannon, of Chicago, in which Carranza is charged with violating the pledges of religious liberty made before the present Mexican government was recognized by the United States. Secretary Lansing is examining the evidence submitted.

Whether the matter will be taken up through present diplomatic channels or will be postponed until complete diplomatic relations are established with Mexico has not been announced.

The two clergymen charge that priests in Yucatan, under penalty of expulsion, have been ordered to marry in violation of their vows, and work eight hours a day in government offices, and that priests in northern Mexico have been ordered to abandon their clerical garb and wear peons' blankets. Other evidence was submitted to Mr. Lansing in substantiation of charges that Carranza has violated every guarantee of religious freedom given before the recognition of his de facto government by President Wilson.

Muff Stolen.

Mrs. Nellie G. McGulgan, 227 Seventh street northeast, has reported the loss of a wolf fur pillow muff to the police. She says the fur was stolen from her while she was shopping Monday.

BARGAINS IN JEWELRY For Early Xmas Shoppers

20-year Guaranteed Elgin Watches; \$10.00 value. Special, \$6.50

\$10.00 full cut Diamond Rings... \$6.50
\$12.00 Tiffany Diamond Rings... \$12.00
\$25.00 Tiffany Diamond Rings... \$25.00
Others \$5.00 to \$1,000.00.

\$7.00 Gold-filled Watch Bracelets... \$4.50
Others \$2.25 to \$100.00.

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26 Pairs "Carthean" Patent Leather Button Models, kid tops, with tips. Every pair equipped with O'Sullivan's heels of new, live rubber. The regular prices of Carthean shoes are \$5.00, \$5.50, and \$6.00. Now \$3.50.

34 Pairs "Carthean" Gun Metal Button Models, Cuban heels, equipped with O'Sullivan's heels of new, live rubber; \$3.50 values. Now \$1.65.

15 Pairs "Patrician" Kid Kid Button Models, with tips, leather spool heels. All \$4.00 standard values. Now \$1.65.

30 Pairs "Mary Stuart" Baby Doll Models, Patent leather lace, gray cloth tops. Standard price branded on the soles, \$4.00. Now \$1.65.

34 Pairs Cloth Top Lace Boots, with low heel, Mary Stuart make. Regular price branded on the soles, \$4.00. Now \$1.65.

52 Pairs Gun Metal Gun Metal Lace, gray cloth tops; Louis Cuban heel, plain toes. Regular price, \$4.00. Now \$1.65.

23 Pairs "Mary Stuart" Patent Leather Button Models, with gray cloth tops. Plain toe, leather Cuban heel. Regular price of this model is \$3.50. Now \$1.65.

49 Pairs "Patrician" Ten Walking Boots, button style, leather Cuban heels, with tips. Both regular and high-cut patterns; \$4.00 and \$5.00 values. Now \$1.65.

30 Pairs "Valois" Gun Metal, with gray cloth tops; 12 button, overgaiter pattern. Cuban heels and leather Cuban heels. Standard price, \$3.00. Now \$1.65.

58 Pairs "Carthean" Vic Kidskin, button models, neat tips, Cuban heels, equipped with O'Sullivan's heels of new, live rubber; \$3.50 values. Now \$1.65.

107 Pairs \$5 Patent Leather Lace Boots, African brown or gray cloth tops. Louis Cuban heel, plain toes. A standard \$5.00 shoe. Now \$1.65.

29 Pairs Bronze Kid Laced Boots, fawn cloth tops, leather Cuban heels. Standard selling price, \$4.00. Now \$1.65.